



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, April 25, 2003

Contact: Kristin Rieber
Toll Free: (866) 262-7307
Oakwood Southshore Contact:
Scott Redding 313-586-5326

Patterson Tours Medical Center to Gain Insight on State Healthcare Issues

Trenton, Mich. –Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, today toured the Oakwood Southshore Medical Center, to gain insight on state healthcare issues.

The Vice – Chair of the Senate’s Health Policy Committee was only too happy to accept the invitation extended to him for the visit. With the company of Administrative Officer Edith Hughes, Chief Marketing and Corporate Communications Officer Nancy Paton, Senior Vice President of Planning and Marketing Ken Trester and Chief of Staff Dr. Iqbal Nasir, the Senator was provided with greater insight into the medical services available to his constituents.

During the course of the tour, Senator Patterson asked many pertinent questions. The answers he received provided him with valuable information that will accord him with a greater understanding of the Downriver portion of his senate district, and will permit him to build upon his aggressive legislative agenda designed to fully represent the needs of his constituents.

Following the completion of the tour, Ken Trester remarked on the Senator’s participation. “Based on the questions posed, I am convinced that Senator Patterson has a considerable comprehension of the issues facing the healthcare industry today,” Trester said. “We are delighted he is engaged in finding solutions to the varied and complex demands being placed on our medical institutions and health care professionals. It is encouraging to know that our area’s State Senator cares.”

Oakwood Southshore Medical Center’s specialty areas include cardiology, oncology, orthopedics, general surgery, emergency care, ear, nose and throat and obstetrics & gynecology. In July 2003, Oakwood Southshore will welcome medical students to its new medical education program.

-- more --

“Oakwood Southshore Medical Center is dedicated to the community,” observed Patterson. “It made a commitment to grow, and it is accomplishing its goals at an extraordinary rate while providing excellent healthcare. I am very impressed.”

The Senator’s remarks refer to the fact that the medical center had a 26 percent increase in emergency visits from 2001 to 2002. Oakwood Southshore’s daily inpatient volume increased from an average of 32 to 75 in nine months and its new maternity unit, which opened in July 2002, welcomed over 200 babies in six months. The hospital also opened a new endoscopy area and cardiac catheterization lab. All these accomplishments occurred during construction.

The Senator was pleased to know changes and renovations will continue through the year with a new ambulatory surgery center, an outpatient radiology center and the addition of beds to meet the needs of the community.

“During such difficult economic times, Oakwood Southshore continues to invest and grow to meet the needs of the Downriver community,” Patterson said. “They are truly committed to ensuring that the best possible healthcare is available to my constituents.”

As Senator of the 7th District, Patterson represents the City of Northville, Northville Township, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Sumpter Township, Huron Township, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Trenton, Grosse Isle Township, Gibraltar and Rockwood.

Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Patterson visiting the Oakwood Southshore Medical Center is available on the Senate Photowire, located at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/>.